

*With the Clerk's compliments.*

# Gnosall *Staffs* Rural District Council.

## Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1909.

In the following table will be found statistics of the birth and death rates for the year, and also the averages of those for the past ten years:

	1909.	Average of past 10 years.
Deaths per 1,000 of Population .....	11.06	12.7
Births per 1,000 of population .....	21.9	24.8
Deaths from zymotic diseases per 1,000 of population .....	0.04	0.10
Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births registered .....	77	107.

I am again pleased to be able to report that both the general death rate and the infantile death rate are below the average. The deaths of infants under one year only reach a total of 8, and I do not find that any one of these has arisen from preventable causes. I have occasionally been asked why the Notification of Births Act is not in force in the district, and I think I am justified in saying that with such a small infantile death rate it is as yet hardly necessary that it should be. In the spring two deaths of children occurred from pneumonia following on whooping cough, and these are the only ones due to zymotic disease.

The birth rate is again below the average.

In Table No. IV. accompanying this report will be found the number of deaths in each parish, and also the causes of death. It may be noted that a larger number of deaths than usual are attributed to diseases of the lungs, there being eight from pneumonia, four from bronchitis, and three from pulmonary tuberculosis. With regard to the three from pulmonary tuberculosis or Consumption I consider that the addition of this disease to those already notifiable in the district would be of great service. As things stand at present no official notification (except the case should happen to be under the care of a Poor Law Medical Officer) is provided for, and, consequently, in most instances no notification is received until some time after the death of the person affected, when comparatively little can be done; whereas if early notification were adopted more valuable advice as to preventive methods could be given with probably better results.

**NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** - Commencing in March, among the children attending Church Eaton school an epidemic of Scarlet Fever lingered on until the end of November. Owing to this and also to a large number of cases of epidemic Influenza, the

school was closed from March 30th to April 19th, during which time it was disinfected, and it was hoped, on re-opening, that the epidemic was under control; but a fresh series of cases broke out again early in June, and the school was closed on July 19th until the end of the August summer holidays. The school was disinfected a second time, but shortly after re-opening a few more cases were notified, and the epidemic only died out finally at the end of November. It would seem from this that the methods used to stop the spread of the infection were not very successful; but the following reasons in my opinion explain the apparent want of success:— Firstly, the want of efficient isolation, as it is quite impossible for this to be thoroughly carried out in the limited accommodation of cottage homes; secondly, that though parents are advised to wash or destroy clothing worn during the illness that this is not thoroughly done; and thirdly, that in all probability slight cases are overlooked or looked upon as of no consequence by the parents when the children are not seriously ill, and not being attended to in any way are a certain source of infection to others. There were in all 24 cases notified during this epidemic, mostly in children under 7 years of age.

In July a case of Scarlet Fever was notified in Gnosall, but here, fortunately, the surroundings were such that isolation and disinfection could be more completely carried out, and the infection was confined to the house itself, in which, however, a second case occurred about 6 weeks after.

With the exception of a single case of Erysipelas, these comprise all the notifiable cases of infectious disease during the year.

**VACCINATION.**—I find during the year that the inclination towards obtaining exemption is distinctly on the increase. This may be easily enough understood in the case of parents who have had former children vaccinated, and who, I find, are inclined to attribute all sorts of subsequent ailments to the effects of the operation: but a considerable proportion of them are parents who have not that experience, and are merely going on second-hand evidence as to the supposed ill effects of Vaccination, or are taking this course to save themselves trouble, or even because some one else has had an exemption and they think they might as well do the same. I should say that these are not the sort of cases provided for by the Exemption Clauses in the Act, but they certainly do occur, and with increasing frequency.

The following is an account of the sanitary work done throughout the year, as furnished to me by the Sanitary Inspector:—



	Number of Inspections made.	Defects found.	Abatement Notices: Informed by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Nuisances abated after: Notice by Inspector;	Notice by Authority.
Dwelling-houses and Schools:						
Foul Conditions .....	1	1	1	0	1	0
Structural Defects ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding .....	6	1	1	1	0	1
Unfit for Habitation	2	1	1	0	1	0
Lodging Houses .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dairies and Milkshops	2	1	1	0	1	0
Cowsheds .....	55	9	9	0	9	0
Bakehouses .....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Slaughter Houses .....	5	1	1	0	1	0
Canal Boats .....	28	4	0	4	0	4
Ashpits and Privies...	32	17	17	2	15	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .....	6	2	2	1	1	1
Water Closets .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Drainage: De- fective traps, no dis- connection, other faults .....	93	58	58	5	54	4
Water Supply .....	76	62	9	53	9	0
Pigsties .....	5	5	5	1	4	1
Animals improperly kept .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offensive Trades .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Nuisances .....	1	1	1	0	1	0
Totals ...	314	163	106	67	97	12

Unwholesome food: No action taken.

Food and Drugs Act: No action.

Samples of water taken for analysis, 6; condemned as unfit for use, 3.

Precautions against Infectious Disease: Houses disinfected, 8; schools disinfected, 1 (twice over); prosecutions, none.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—It may be observed that the number of defects remedied under this heading falls far short of the notices served by authority, but this will be altered in course of time by the connection of the houses with the mains of the water supply now provided for Gnosall by the local District Council. This was the only possible way that this could be done, and the supply will fill a long-felt want.

**GNOSALL DRAINAGE.**—Some further steps have been taken in furtherance of this scheme.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES**—These are well kept, only one defect being mentioned during the year in the Inspector's report, which has been remedied.

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.**—None of the industries mentioned in the list received from the Secretary of State are carried on in the district, and consequently no report requires to be made. The bakehouses inspected were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

The usual tables of sickness and mortality accompany this report.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant.

R. S. STEELE, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Gnosall Rural District Council.

February 12th, 1910.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1909 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

### DISTRICT: GNOSALL RURAL.

1899: Population estimated to middle of each year, 5,014; births 121, rate 14.1; total deaths registered in the district under 1 year of age 15, rate per 1,000 births registered, 125; total deaths registered in the district at all ages 69, rate 13.4. 1900: Population, 5,020; births 109, rate 21.5; deaths under 1 year 13, rate per 1,000 110; total deaths at all ages 60, rate 11.9. 1901: Population, 4,707; births 116, rate 24.6; total deaths under 1 year 16, rate per 1,000 137; total deaths at all ages 57, rate 12.1. 1902: Population, 4,700; births 129, rate 27.4; total deaths under 1 year 15, rate per 1,000 116; total deaths at all ages 75; rate 15.9. 1903: Population, 4,700; births 127, rate 27.2; total deaths under 1 year 13, rate per 1,000 births 102; total deaths at all ages, 58, rate 12.3. 1904: Population, 4,700; births 130, rate 27.6; total deaths under 1 year 15, rate per 1,000 births 115; total deaths at all ages, 54, rate 11.4. 1905: Population, 4,700; births 117, rate 24.5; total deaths under 1 year of age 12, rate per 1,000 births 102; total deaths at all ages, 73, rate 15.3. 1906: Population, 4,700; births 115, rate 24.4; total deaths under 1 year 14, rate per 1,000 births 121; total deaths at all ages 54, rate 11.4. 1907: Population, 4,700; births 109, rate 23.1; total deaths under 1 year 7, rate per 1,000 births 64; total deaths at all ages 48, rate 10.2. 1908: Population, 4,700; births 112, rate 23.8; total deaths under 1 year 9, rate per 1,000 births 80; total deaths at all ages 65, rate 13.8; deaths of residents registered in public institutions beyond the district, 2; nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district 67, rate 14.2. Averages for years 1899-1908: Population, 4,764; births 118, rate 24.8; total deaths under 1 year 12, rate per 1,000 births 107; total deaths at all ages 61, rate 12.7. 1909: Population, 4,700; births 103, rate 21.9; total deaths under 1 year 8, rate per 1,000 births 77; total deaths at all ages 50, rate 10.6; deaths of residents registered in public institutions beyond the district, 2; nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district 52, rate 11.6.

Area of district in acres (exclusive of area covered by water, 26,083; total population at all ages, 4,707; number of inhabited houses, 1,015; average number of persons per house, 4.1.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1909 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

### DISTRICT: GNOSALL RURAL.

**GNOSALL.**—1899: Population estimated to middle of each year, 2,106; births registered, 52; deaths at all ages, 31; deaths under 1 year, 5. 1900: Population, 2,047; births, 42; deaths at all ages, 19; deaths under 1 year, 4. 1901: Population, 2,050; births, 56; deaths at all ages, 33; deaths under 1 year, 9. 1902: Population, 2,050; births, 49; deaths at all ages, 30; deaths under 1 year, 7. 1903: Population, 2,050; births, 53; deaths at all ages, 33; deaths under 1 year, 5. 1904: Population, 2,050; births, 52; deaths at all ages, 25; deaths under 1 year, 6. 1905: Population, 2,050; births, 47; deaths at all ages, 34; deaths under 1 year, 4. 1906: Population, 2,050; births, 39; deaths at all ages, 28; deaths under 1 year, 6. 1907: Population, 2,050; births, 51; deaths at all ages, 22; deaths under 1 year, 3. 1908: Population, 2,050; births, 51; deaths at all ages, 39; deaths under 1 year, 6. Averages of years 1899 to 1908: Population, 2,055; births, 49; deaths at all ages, 29; deaths under 1 year, 5. 1909: Population, 2,050; births, 45; deaths at all ages, 27; deaths under 1 year, 4.



ADBASTON. — 1899: Population, 570; births, 22; deaths at all ages, 14; deaths under 1 year, 5. 1900: Population, 570; births, 16; deaths at all ages, 9; Deaths under 1 year, 1. 1901: Population, 533; births, 18; deaths at all ages, 7; deaths under 1 year, 3. 1902: Population, 533; births, 24; deaths at all ages, 6; deaths under 1 year, 2. 1903: Population, 533; births, 15; deaths at all ages, 5; deaths under 1 year, 2. 1904: Population, 533; births, 19; deaths at all ages, 10; deaths under 1 year, 3. 1905: Population, 533; births, 14; deaths at all ages, 9; deaths under 1 year, 3. 1906: Population, 533; births, 15; deaths at all ages, 5; deaths under 1 year, 1. 1907: Population, 533; births, 8; deaths at all ages, 7; deaths under 1 year, 1. 1908: Population, 533; births, 9; deaths at all ages, 4; deaths under 1 year, 0. Averages of years 1899 to 1908: Population, 540; births, 16; deaths at all ages, 7; deaths under 1 year, 2. 1909: Population, 533; births, 13; deaths at all ages, 2; deaths under 1 year, 0.

HIGH OFFLEY.—1899: Pop., 790; births, 11; deaths at all ages 11, under 1 year 2. 1900: Pop., 790; births, 20; deaths at all ages 15, under 1 year 7. 1901: Pop., 627; births, 9; deaths at all ages 4, under 1 year 1. 1902: Pop., 620; births, 20; deaths at all ages 11, under 1 year 4. 1903: Pop., 620; births, 23; deaths at all ages 6, under 1 year 2. 1904: Pop., 620; births, 18; deaths at all ages 6, under 1 year 2. 1905: Pop., 620; births, 21; deaths at all ages 13, under 1 year 2. 1906: Pop., 620; births, 18; deaths at all ages 6, under 1 year 4. 1907: Pop., 620; births, 25; deaths at all ages 9, under 1 year 2. 1908: Pop., 620; births, 16; deaths at all ages 9, under one year 2. Averages of years 1899 to 1908: Pop., 654; births, 18; deaths at all ages 9, under 1 year 2. 1909: Pop., 620; births, 14; deaths at all ages 12, under 1 year 1.

NORBURY.—1899: Pop., 370; births, 10; deaths at all ages 3, under 1 year 1. 1900: Pop., 360; births, 8; deaths at all ages 8, under 1 year 0. 1901: Pop., 383; births, 8; deaths at all ages 4, under 1 year 0. 1902: Pop., 383; births, 14; deaths at all ages 17, under 1 year 2. 1903: Pop., 383; births, 9; deaths at all ages, 3; under 1 year, 1. 1904: Pop., 383; births, 13; deaths at all ages 4, under 1 year 2. 1905: Pop., 383; births, 7; deaths at all ages 9, under 1 year 2. 1906: Pop., 383; births, 9; deaths at all ages 7, under 1 year 1. 1907: Pop., 383; births, 5; deaths at all ages 2, under 1 year 1. 1908: Pop., 383; births, 9; deaths at all ages 3, under 1 year 0. Averages of years 1899 to 1908: Pop., 379; births, 9; deaths at all ages 6, under 1 year 1. 1909: Pop., 383; births, 9; deaths at all ages 5, under 1 year 2.

FORTON.—1899: Pop., 578; births, 8; deaths at all ages 5, under 1 year 2. 1900: Pop., 578; births, 10; deaths at all ages 3, under 1 year 1. 1901: Pop., 520; births, 11; deaths at all ages 3, under 1 year 2. 1902: Pop., 520; births, 9; deaths at all ages 3, under 1 year 0. 1903: Pop., 520; births, 8; deaths at all ages 1, under 1 year 0. 1904: Pop., 520; births, 15; deaths at all ages 4, under 1 year 1. 1905: Pop., 520; births, 8; deaths at all ages 3, under 1 year 0. 1906: Pop., 520; births, 12; deaths at all ages 6, under 1 year 2. 1907: Pop., 520; births, 8; deaths at all ages 4, under 1 year 1. 1908: Pop., 520; births, 8; deaths at all ages 4, under 1 year 0. Averages of years 1899 to 1908: Pop., 531; births, 10; deaths at all ages 3, under 1 year 0. 1909: Pop., 520; births, 6; deaths at all ages 4, under 1 year 1.

CHURCH EATON.—1899: Pop., 616; births, 18; deaths at all ages 5, under 1 year 1. 1900: Pop., 616; births, 13; deaths at all ages 6, under

1 year 0. 1901: Pop., 577; births, 11; deaths at all ages 6, under 1 year 1. 1902: Pop., 577; births, 13; deaths at all ages 8, under 1 year 0. 1903: Pop., 577; births, 19; deaths at all ages 10, under 1 year 3. 1904: Pop., 577; births, 13; deaths at all ages 5, under 1 year 1. 1905: Pop., 577; births, 17; deaths at all ages 5, under 1 year 1. 1906: Pop., 577; births, 22; deaths at all ages 2, under 1 year 0. 1907: Pop., 577; births, 12; deaths at all ages 4, under 1 year 0. 1908: Pop., 577; births, 19; deaths at all ages 6, under 1 year 1. Averages of years 1899 to 1908: Pop., 578; births, 15; deaths at all ages 5, under 1 year 0. 1909: Pop., 577; births, 16; deaths at all ages 2, under 1 year 0.

#### CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1909.

##### DISTRICT: GNOSALL.

Erysipelas: At all ages, 1; 15 to 25 years, 1 (High Offley). Scarlet Fever: At all ages, 25; 1 to 5 years, 6; 5 to 15 years, 17; 25 to 65 years, 2 (Gnosall 2, Church Eaton 23). Total at all ages, 26.

#### CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1909.

##### DISTRICT: GNOSALL.

Whooping-cough: All ages, 2; under 1 year, 1; 1 and under 5, 1 (Gnosall 2). Epidemic Influenza: All ages, 1; 15 and under 25 years, 1 (High Offley, 1). Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis): All ages, 3; 25 and under 65 years, 2; 65 and upwards, 1 (Gnosall 1, Admaston 1, High Offley 1). Other Tuberculous Diseases: All ages, 1; 1 and under 5 years, 1 (Church Eaton 1). Cancer, malignant disease: All ages, 5; 25 and under 65 years, 2; 65 and upwards, 3 (Gnosall 2, High Offley 2, Church Eaton 1). Bronchitis: All ages: 4; 25 and under 65 years, 1; 65 and upwards, 3 (Gnosall 3, High Offley 1). Pneumonia: All ages, 8; under 1 year, 2; 15 and under 25, 1; 25 and under 65, 4; 65 and upwards, 1 (Gnosall 1, Adbaston 1, High Offley 3, Norbury 2, Forton 1). Heart Disease: All ages, 7; 25 and under 65, 2; 65 and upwards, 5 (Gnosall 4, High Offley 1, Forton 2). Accidents: All ages, 2; 5 and under 15, 1; 25 and under 65, 1 (Gnosall 2). Suicides: All ages, 1; 25 and under 65, 1 (Norbury 1). All other causes: All ages, 18; under 1 year, 5; 1 and under 5, 1; 15 and under 26, 2; 25 and under 65, 3; 65 and upwards, 7 (Gnosall 12, High Offley 3, Norbury 2, Forton 1). All Causes: All ages, 52; under 1 year, 8; 1 and under 5, 3; 5 and under 15, 1; 15 and under 25, 4; 25 and under 65, 16; 65 and upwards, 20 (Gnosall 27, Adbaston 2, High Offley 12, Norbury 5, Forton 4, Church Eaton 2).

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of age.

##### GNOSALL DISTRICT.

All Causes—Certified: 1-2 months, 3; 8-9 months, 1; 11-12 months, 1; total deaths under one year, 5. Uncertified: Under 1 week, 1; 1-2 weeks, 1; 4-5 months, 1; total deaths under one year, 3. Common infectious disease—whooping cough: 8-9 months, 1. Wasting Diseases—Congenital defects: 1-2 weeks, 1; atrophy, debility, marasmus: 1-2 months, 1. Other causes—Convulsions: 1-2 months, 1; 4-5 months, 1; pneumonia: 1-2 months, 1; 11-12 months, 1; other causes: under 1 week, 1. Population (estimated to middle of 1909), 4,707. Births in the year: Legitimate, 99; illegitimate, 4. Deaths in the year: Legitimate infants, 8; illegitimate infants, nil. Deaths from all causes at all ages, 52.

